

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106883
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03
/034 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:WARILEY:VLV
APPROVED BY EB/AN:RABROWN
CAB - F.MURPHY
EUR/WE - EJBEIGEL
-----111756Z 018877 /47
R 111529Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - TWA ACCESS TO LAJES

REF: LISBON 3586

1. DEPT DISAPPOINTED WITH VILAR'S RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER.
WE PREFER TO DELAY RESPONSE TO VILAR'S SUGGESTION THAT US-
PORTUGAL MEET BEFORE TWA RECEIVES ACCESS TO LAJES UNTIL WE
HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT THE PORTUGUESE WANT TO TALK ABOUT.
WE ARE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO SENDING A US DELE-
GATION UNDER VILAR'S PROPOSAL SINCE, DESPITE HIS ORAL
ASSURANCE THAT OUR AGENDA ITEM--ACCESS TO LAJES--WILL
RECEIVE ACTION BEFORE CONSIDERATION OF THE OTHER, UNKNOWN
ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US THAT THE
PORTUGUESE WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR TRUMP BEFORE
GETTING WHAT THEY WANT ON THE REST OF THE AGENDA.

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PAGE 02 STATE 106883

2. USG HAS INADVERTENTLY FACILITATED TAP SUMMER CHARTER
FROM WEST COAST TO LAJES BY PUTTING TAP ON LIST OF FOREIGN
AIRLINES WHICH ARE NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PRIOR CAB
APPROVAL FOR OFF-ROUTE CHARTERS. ALTHOUGH WE PREFER TO
WORK OUT PROBLEM SOME OTHER WAY, IN VIEW OF PORTUGUESE
TREATMENT OF US SCHEDULED SERVICES TO LAJES, WE MAY HAVE TO

CONSIDER CHANGING STATUS OF TAP BY REMOVING THEM FROM LIST,

WHICH WOULD MAKE PRIOR APPROVAL OF SUCH CHARTERS MANDATORY.
CAB COULD ALSO REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL FOR PLANNED SUMMER
PROGRAM.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCREETLY INQUIRE, PERHAPS
THROUGH MEDIUM OF TWA REP, JUST WHAT THE GOP WANTS TO
DISCUSS. IF ASKED, EMBASSY MAY REPLY THAT USG IS CON-
SIDERING VILAR'S SUGGESTION BUT THAT CIVAIR NEGOTIATING
SCHEDULE IS PARTICULARLY TIGHT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. THUS,
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ALLOW TWA ACCESS
TO LAJES WITHOUT DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS WILL
DENY US AIRLINE RIGHT TO LAJES ACCESS FOR PEAK SEASON.
WITH PAST HISTORY OF LAJES QUESTION, THIS WILL NOT ESTAB-
LISH GOOD BASIS FOR ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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